Page 3, line 22, please change "various new ligand" to - - various new ligands - -.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-2, 5-9, 11, and 19, cancel claims 3 and 4, and add new claims 20-38 as follows:

1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid encoding a [TfR2] polypeptide having a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;

(b) an amino acid sequence encoded by at least the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(c) an amino acid sequence encoded by at least the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

(d) an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleotide sequence having at least 60% homology with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(e) an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleotide sequence having at least 60% homology with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3;

(f) an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleotide sequence that will hybridize under moderate stringency conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; and

(g) an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleotide sequence that will hybridize under moderate stringency conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3

2. (Amended) [The] An isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises a molecule selected from the group consisting of DNA, cDNA, and RNA.

5. (Amended) [The] An isolated nucleic acid molecule [of claim 2, wherein the DNA has substantially the same nucleotide sequence as the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO: 3] comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of

(a) a nucleotide sequence having at least 60% homology with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) a nucleotide sequence having at least 60% homology with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3;

(c) a nucleotide sequence that will hybridize under moderate stringency conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(d) a nucleotide sequence that will hybridize under moderate stringency conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

6. (Amended) A recombinant expression vector comprising DNA of claim 2.

7. (Amended) A host cell [containing a] comprising the vector of claim 6, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a procaryotic cell [or] and a eucaryotic cell.

8. (Amended) A host cell of claim 7, wherein the cell expresses a [functional TfR2 protein] a polypeptide having a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;

(b) an amino acid sequence encoded by at least the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(c) an amino acid sequence encoded by at least the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

(d) an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleotide sequence having at least 60% homology with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(e) an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleotide sequence having at least 60% homology with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3;

(f) an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleotide sequence that will hybridize under moderate stringency conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(g) an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleotide sequence that will hybridize under moderate stringency conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3

9. Isolated mRNA complementary to the DNA of claim 2.

11. (Amended) An anitisense oligonucleotide [capable of specifically binding

to and inhibiting the translation of mRNA in claim 9] sufficiently complementary to the mRNA of claim 9 so as to inhibit its translation.

19. (Amended) A composition comprising an amount of the antisense oligonucleotide of claim 11 effective to modulate expression of [a TfR2] at least a polypeptide of claim 1 and an acceptable hydrophobic carrier capable of passing through a cell membrane.

Please add new claims 20-38 as follows:

--20. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid encodes (a).—

--21. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid encodes (b).--

--22. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid encodes (c).-

--23. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid encodes (d).--

--24. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid encodes (e).--

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--25. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid encodes (f).-

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--26. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid encodes (g).--

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--27. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 5, wherein the nucleotide sequence is (a).--

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--28. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 5, wherein the nucleotide sequence is (b).--

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--29. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 5, wherein the nucleotide sequence is (c).--

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--30. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 5, wherein the nucleotide sequence is (d).--

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--31. The vector of claim 6, wherein the vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid and a virus.--

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--32. The vector of claim 31, wherein the vector is a virus selected from the

group consisting of simian virus 40 and bovine papilloma virus.--

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--~~38~~. A host cell comprising the vector of claim 6, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial cell, a yeast cell, an insect cell, and a mammalian cell.--

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--~~34~~. The host cell of claim 22, wherein the vector is selected from the group consisting of a T7-based expression vector for expression in bacteria, a baculovirus-derived vector for expression in insect cells, and a pMSXND expression vector for expression in mammalian cells.--

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--~~35~~. An isolated host cell comprising a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid of claim 1 and a nucleic acid of claim 5.--

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--~~36~~. An isolated host cell comprising nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid of claim 1 and a nucleic acid of claim 5, wherein the nucleic acid is operatively associated with a regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.--

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--~~37~~. The isolated host cell of claim 35, wherein the regulatory sequence is a promoter.--

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--~~38~~. The isolated host cell of claim 37, wherein the promoter is selected from